

and jazz, in rhythm and blues, and in rock and roll. Lyrics first heard in the country churches in the Mississippi Delta and songs first played in the clubs of Harlem and Chicago and Memphis are now recognized and loved in every part of America and throughout the world. The music we honor this month could have only come from the unique experience of Black Americans.

Yet, at its best, this music speaks to every heart. Your day is a little better when you hear Nat King Cole sing “Unforgettable,” or Aaron Neville “Tell it Like it Is”—[*laughter*]*—*or Diana Ross singing “Reflections,” or B.B. King lamenting, “The Thrill is Gone.” [*Laughter*] Or how about when James Brown proclaims, “I Feel Good”? [*Laughter*] Or Mahalia Jackson praising our “Precious Lord.”

This is some of the greatest music America has ever produced. America is thankful

to the men and women who have shared this gift with us all. And so today I’ve signed a proclamation designating June 2003 as Black Music Month in the United States of America.

May God bless your talents, and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:38 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor James A. Garner of Hempstead, NY; President Mireya Elisa Moscoso, Foreign Minister Harmodio Arias, and Ambassador to the United States Roberto Alfaro of Panama; writer and jazz critic Stanley Crouch; jazz musician Loren Schoenberg; and the Harlem Jazz Museum Artists musical group. The Black Music Month proclamation of June 24 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the Death of Bob Stump *June 24, 2003*

Congressman Bob Stump lived a distinguished life of service as a World War II veteran, an Arizona State legislator, and a United States Congressman. He was a gifted leader who remained true to his principles and made an indelible mark on those who were fortunate enough to know him. As one of the few Members of Congress

who served as chairman of both the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee, he was admired for his tireless efforts on behalf of the men and women in uniform. Laura joins me in sending our thoughts and prayers to Nancy and the entire Stump family during this difficult time.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Homeland Security Legislation *June 24, 2003*

I commend the House of Representatives for acting quickly to approve funds for our continued effort to strengthen homeland security and protect the American people. I’m particularly pleased that the House bill

supports my request to help train, equip, and prepare first-responders across our Nation. The bill also supports important core functions of the newly created Department